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Message Text

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ACTION OPIC-06

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EB-08 OES-07 CEQ-01 EPAE-00
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EINV IR
SUBJ: OPIC ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING PROGRAM -
CABOT CORP. AND B.F. GOODRICH

REF: STATE 94329

1. ACCORDING TO INFORMATION OBTAINED FROM IRAN CARBON COMPANY (A JOINT VENTURE OWNED 50 PERCENT BY CABOT CORP.) THE AHWAZ CARBON BLACK PLANT (1) WAS BUILT TO THE SAME SPECIFICATIONS AS USED BY CABOT IN DESIGNING U.S. PLANTS, (2) INCORPORATES ALL APPROPRIATE ENVIRONMENTAL SAFE-GUARDS, AND (3) HAS HAD NO PROBLEMS WITH LOCAL ENVIRON-MENTAL AGENCIES LOCAL CITIZENRY.NEITHER IRAN CARBON NOR THE EMBASSY IS AWARE OF ANY RECENT OR PENDING LEGISLATION OR REGULATION THAT WOULD AFFECT OPERATIONS OF IRAN CARBON.

2. ABADAN PETROCHEMICAL COMPANY (APC) IS A JOINT VENTURE IN WHICH B.F. GOODRICH IS, WITH A 26 PERCENT INTERERST, VERY MUCH A MINORITY PARTNER. THE NATIONAL PETRO-CEMICAL COMPANY (NPC) WITH 74 PERCENT, HAS AND EXERCISES OPERATIONAL CONTROL OF APRC--EX., BOTH THE MANAGING DIRECTOR AND THE PLANT MANAGER OF THE JOINT VENTURE ARE NPC OFFICIALS.

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3. APC HAS HAD PROBLEMS WITH POLLUTION; AND, SOME STEPS ARE BEING TAKEN AND OTHERS ARE UNDER STUDY TO ELIMINATE OR REDUCE THESE PROBLEMS. THE GOI IS, ACCORDING TO AN APC OFFICIAL, LIKELY TO INTRODUCE STANDARDS SHORTLY WHICH WOULD REQUIRE, INTER ALIA, THAT AIRBORNE VCM NOT EXCEED 25 PPM AT THE PLANT. IN ANTICIPATION OF THE ADOPTION OF SUCH A STANDARD,

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APC IS PRESENTLY INSTALLING A MULTI-STATION MONITORING SYSTEM WHICH WILL PROVIDE AN ACCURATE RECORD OF AIRBORNE VCM POLLUTION. THE MONITORING SYSTEM WILL DETERMINE WHETHER A PROBLEM EXISTS, AND, IF SO, IT WILL HELP TO DETERMINE THE CAUSE AND SEVERITY OF THE PROBLEM. APC HAS ALSO CONTRACTED WITH A CONSULTANT TO STUDY THE PROBLEM OF PVC POLLUTION OF THE KARUN RIVER (WHICH HAS OCCURED) AND TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PREVENTING SUCH POLLUTION. THE FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEM FACING APC, OF WHICH WE ARE AWARE, INVOLVES THE SMALL PLANT AT KARAJ, NEAR TEHRAN, WHICH IS OWNED BY APC AND WHICH MANUFACTURERS PVC PIPE, CONNECTIONS, AND SEMI-RIGID SHEETS. OPERATION OF THIS PLANT HAS RESULTED IN ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION OF THE IMMEDIATE VICINITY. FOR THIS REASON, AT LEAST IN PART, A NEW FACILITY IS BEING BUILT ON THE SAME SITE AND THE OLD PLANT IS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETELY CLOSED DOWN THIS YEAR.
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